

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 DRC-01 /100 W
----- 125080

R 051949Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6475

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: DECLARATIONS AND MEETINGS ON HONDURAS - EL SALVADOR
BORDER ISSUE

BEGIN SUMMARY: HONDURAN AND SALVADORAN STUDENTS MET ON THE
BORDER FEBRUARY 24 AND ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT ASKING FOR
THE SOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES. THE
COMMUNIST PARTIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES HAD PREVIOUSLY ISSUED
A SIMILARLY PHRASED JOINT DECLARATION CALLING FOR A RESOLUTION
OF OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS AND NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONSHIPS.
PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO STATED THAT LABOR LEADERS OF BOTH
COUNTRIES WERE TO MEET ON THE FRONTIER BUT THIS MEETING
DID NOT TAKE PLACE. END SUMMARY.

1. DELEGATIONS OF HONDURAN AND SALVADORAN STUDENTS MET
AT THE BORDER TOWN OF EL AMATILLO FOR ABOUT FOUR HOURS ON
FEBRUARY 24. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT ABOUT 150 WERE
PRESENT AND THAT THE STUDENTS AGREED TO HAVE TWO MORE
MEETINGS, ONE IN TEGUCIGALPA ON MARCH 28 AND THE OTHER IN
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SAN SALVADOR ON APRIL 30. THE STUDENT STATEMENT BLAMES

THE CONFLICT ON THE ECONOMICALLY POWERFUL SECTORS OF BOTH NATIONS AND CLAIMS THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND ONLY IF THE "POPULAR" ORGANIZATIONS OF THE COUNTRIES MOBILIZE THEMSELVES. ACCORDING TO DECLARATION THE BASIC PROBLEM BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES DERIVES FROM ARCHAIC AGRARIAN STRUCTURES AND THE CACM, AN INSTRUMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN IMPERIALISTIC DOMINATION. THE HONDURAS STUDENTS WERE MEMBERS OF FEUH, THE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED NATIONAL STUDENT FEDERATION.

2. THE JOINT DECLARATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR, DATED FEBRUARY, 1974, ALSO BLAMES THE WAR ON THE WEALTHY CLASSES AND SAYS THAT A NEW WAR WOULD ONLY FAVOR THE "ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE - OLIGARCHIES AND U.S. IMPERIALISM." THE DECLARATION FURTHER SAYS THAT THE REACTIONARY AND TRADITIONIST ELEMENTS IN EL SALVADOR NOW GOVERNING AND THE SAME GROUPS DISPLACED FROM POWER IN HONDURAS HAVE AN INTEREST IN HEATING UP THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO DECLARATION, THIS IDEA HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE U.S. AND U.S. COMPLICITY IS SHOWN BY ITS ARMS SALES TO BOTH PARTIES. A RESUMPTION OF THE CONFLICT WOULD SLOW DOWN REFORM; THEREFORE, TO ACHIEVE REFORM PEACE MUST BE SECURED. THE PROBLEM CAN BE WORKED OUT QUICKLY IN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH:

(A) IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT HONDURAS IS NOT OBLIGATED TO REENTER THE CACM AND WILL DO SO ONLY VOLUNTARILY AND WHEN ADVISABLE;

(B) BOTH NATIONS SHOULD ACCEPT THE NECESSITY OF DEFINING THE FRONTIER; AND,

(C) BOTH STATES, AFTER RESOLVING THE FRONTIER ISSUE, SHOULD REVIEW DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

3. ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS HAD ANNOUNCED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORTH COAST LABOR FEDERATION, FESITRANH, AND THE CAMPESINO ASSOCIATION, ANACH, WOULD MEET AT THE FRONTIER WITH THEIR SALVADORAN COUNTERPARTS, THE PRESIDENTS OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS HAVE DENIED IN PRESS INTERVIEWS THAT THEY WILL DO THIS. THE INSIST THAT THE OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENTS BE RESOLVED BEFORE ANY SUCH MEETING TAKE PLACE.

4. COMMENT: FONMIN BATRES, ON HIS RETURN FROM MEXICO. STATED THAT HE DID NOT OBJECT TO SUCH MEETINGS BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THEY IN NO WAY COMMIT THE GOH TO ANY ACTION. THE MAJOR THRUST FOR THESE MEETINGS CLEARLY COMES FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTIES EVEN THOUGH OTHER ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDENT TALKS ON THE BORDER. THE NET EFFECT IN HONDURAS HAS BEEN

PRACTICALLY NIL, AND THE DECLARATIONS HAVE HAD NO VISIBLE EFFECT
EITHER ON THE GOVERNMENT OR ON OTHER SECTORS OF SOCIETY.
SANCHEZ

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